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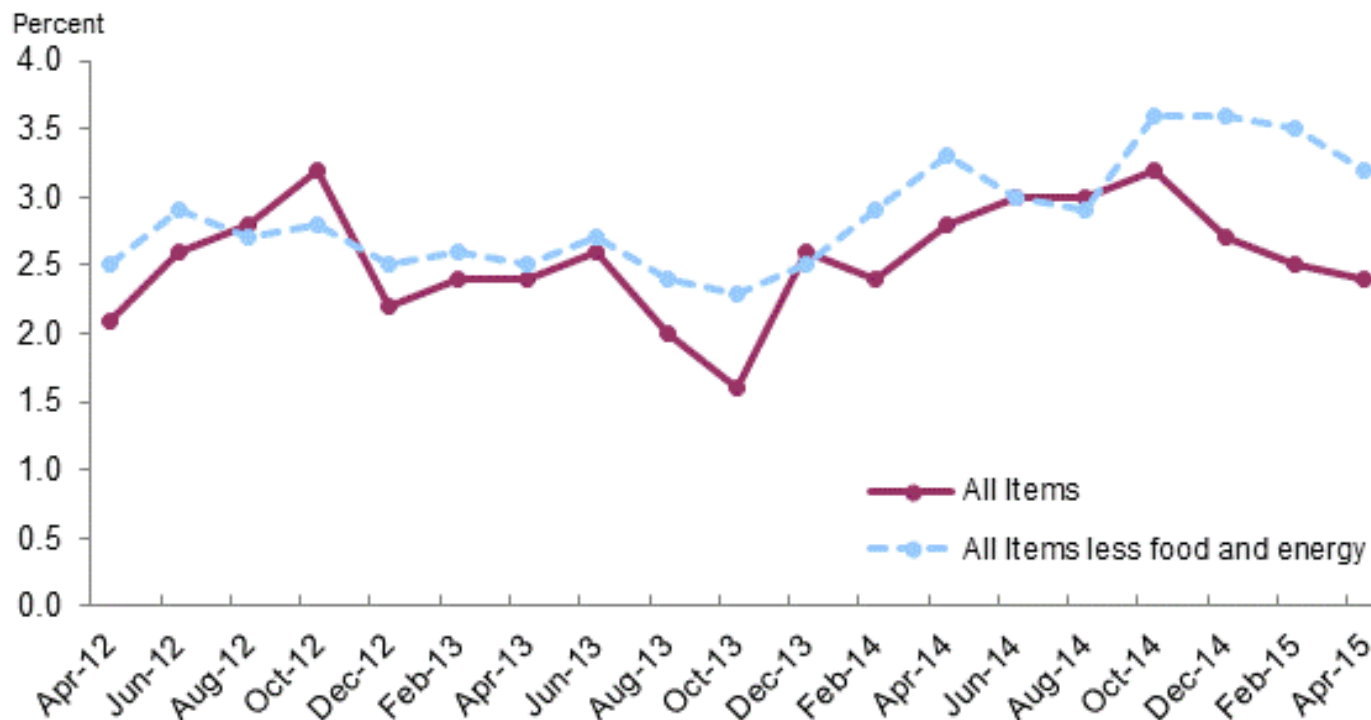
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — April 2015

Area prices were up 1.1 percent over the past two months, up 2.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 1.1 percent for the two months ending in April 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices declined 9.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.2 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco, April 2012–April 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.2 percent for the two months ending in April. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home declined 1.3 percent, but prices for food away from home advanced 1.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.8 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.7 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 2.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index moved up 9.0 percent for the two months ending in April. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (15.2 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 4.8 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 1.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 9.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-23.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity jumped 23.5 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 7.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.8 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (4.8 percent) and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.0 percent) and education and communication (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included household furnishings and operations (9.2 percent) and shelter (5.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-0.3 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.7	1.1	3.0	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.5
April	0.7	1.7	1.8	2.8	0.9	2.1	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.8	1.1	2.4
June	0.2	1.1	-0.2	2.4	0.3	2.6	0.5	2.6	0.7	3.0		
August	-0.1	1.0	0.4	2.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	2.0	0.0	3.0		
October	0.1	0.9	0.3	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.2	1.6	0.5	3.2		
December	-0.2	1.5	-0.4	2.9	-1.4	2.2	-0.4	2.6	-0.9	2.7		

The June 2015 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on July 17, 2015.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population.

The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Solano Counties in the State of California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	254.910	-	257.622	2.4	1.1	-
All items (1967=100)	783.663	-	792.001	-	-	-
Food and beverages	258.435	-	257.490	2.6	-0.4	-
Food	258.418	-	257.859	2.8	-0.2	-
Food at home	251.177	249.381	247.872	2.2	-1.3	-0.6
Food away from home	266.605	-	269.553	3.7	1.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	263.904	-	258.479	0.1	-2.1	-
Housing	286.482	-	289.966	6.2	1.2	-
Shelter	322.714	322.974	325.441	5.1	0.8	0.8
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	362.079	363.721	365.294	5.8	0.9	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	347.638	349.081	350.796	5.1	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	347.638	349.081	350.796	5.1	0.9	0.5
Fuels and utilities	343.073	-	347.481	16.3	1.3	-
Household energy	302.753	300.255	309.088	18.4	2.1	2.9
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	302.454	299.928	309.107	19.0	2.2	3.1
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	314.551	317.113	318.756	23.5	1.3	0.5
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	265.709	250.254	278.480	7.7	4.8	11.3
Household furnishings and operations	135.070	-	141.585	9.2	4.8	-
Apparel	118.493	-	117.249	-0.3	-1.0	-
Transportation	185.157	-	191.279	-7.4	3.3	-
Private transportation	173.482	-	178.936	-7.2	3.1	-
Motor fuel	209.050	250.324	240.323	-23.2	15.0	-4.0
Gasoline (all types)	207.941	249.526	239.500	-23.2	15.2	-4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	208.371	250.533	240.149	-23.5	15.3	-4.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	192.586	231.061	222.085	-22.7	15.3	-3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	195.742	232.435	224.355	-22.2	14.6	-3.5
Medical care	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	111.160	-	112.020	1.3	0.8	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	143.563	-	142.413	0.2	-0.8	-
Other goods and services	427.261	-	432.099	0.5	1.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	254.910	-	257.622	2.4	1.1	-
Commodities	180.661	-	182.857	-1.5	1.2	-
Commodities less food & beverages	138.036	-	141.457	-4.4	2.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	173.334	-	179.730	-7.2	3.7	-
Durables	103.721	-	104.507	0.0	0.8	-
Services	317.218	-	320.363	4.4	1.0	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	246.321	-	248.888	2.2	1.0	-
All items less shelter	228.275	-	231.021	0.8	1.2	-
Commodities less food	143.472	-	146.632	-4.2	2.2	-
Nondurables	217.014	-	219.949	-1.9	1.4	-
Nondurables less food	180.196	-	185.816	-6.6	3.1	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	326.516	-	330.358	3.5	1.2	-
Services less medical care services	308.000	-	310.768	4.4	0.9	-
Energy	246.521	271.887	268.820	-9.6	9.0	-1.1
All items less energy	258.418	-	260.140	3.2	0.7	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015	Apr. 2015	Apr. 2014	Feb. 2015	Mar. 2015
All items less food and energy	259.224	-	261.318	3.2	0.8	-

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.